

Message Text

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11
ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 SS-15 SCA-01 INSE-00

USIA-06 /040 W
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R 161010Z SEP 76
FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
SECSTATE WASHDC 1489

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CVIS PINT SCUL IT
SUBJECT: FLORENCE MAYOR MAY AGAIN SEEK VISIT USA WITH LOCAL
SOCCER TEAM

REF: FLORENCE 411, 199, 104
STATE 183440

1. CONSULATE WAS ADVISED SEPT 15 THAT FLORENCE MAYOR ELIO GABBUGGIANI AND AIDE FRANCO CAMARLINGHI ARE PRESENTLY PLANNING TO TRAVEL TO NEW YORK CITY AND PHILADELPHIA OCT 7-14 ACCOMPANYING COLORFUL AND FAMED FLORENTINE "CALCIO IN COSTUME" SOCCER TEAMS AND ENTOURAGE. INFO PROVIDED BY GIANFRANCO BONINSEGNI, P.R. DIRECTOR FOR AZIENDE AUTONOMA DI TURISMO WHO PRESENTED AT CONSULATE 82 PASSPORTS AND VISA APPLICATIONS OF ANTICIPATED 130 SUCH REQUESTS FROM THE TWO SOCCER TEAMS,

ACCOMPANYING MANAGERS, MUSICIANS, FLAG BEARERS, LOCAL OFFICIALS, ETC.

2. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, AZIENDE PRESIDENT MR. ANDREA VON BERGER DISCUSSED U.S. ARRANGEMENTS WITH UNKNOWN OFFICIAL IN STATE DEPT IN WASHINGTON, NEW YORK CITY OFFICIALS, AND MANAGER ALITALIA NEW YORK, FOR TEAM DEPARTURE OCT 7 TO PLAY EITHER AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE OR IN NEW YORK CENTRAL PARK ON OCT 10, AND POSSIBLY VISIT PHILADELPHIA. MEETINGS WITH NEW YORK VIP'S ALSO WILL BE SOUGHT.

3. AS YET NEITHER GABBUGGIANI NOR CAMARLINGHI HAS SUBMITTED VISA
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APPLICATION BUT BONINSEGNI EXPRESSED REASONABLE CERTAINTY THAT BOTH

PLANNING TO ACCOMPANY ENTOURAGE. VAGUE RUMOR OF THIS MOVE HAD SURFACED

BEFORE, HOWEVER, NEITHER GABBUGGIANI NOR CAMARLINGHI MENTIONED SUBJECT

TO ACTING CONSUL GENERAL WRIGHT SEPT 11 DURING OPENING OF COMMUNE
SPONSORED U.S. ARTIST RAUSCHENBERG BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT ALTHOUGH
BOTH HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO BROACH TOPIC.

4. MOVING SPIRIT IN THE AZIENDE IS RECENTLY OUSTED PSI REGIONAL
SECRETARY VON BERGER WHO WAS CAUTIONED SOMETIME AGO TO AVOID
POSSIBILITY VISA COMPLICATIONS WHEN SELECTING ENTOURAGE IN LIGHT OF
RUMOR THAT SOME INDIVIDUALS WITH CRIMINAL AND OTHERS WITH COMMUNIST
HISTORIES INCLUDED ON TEAMS. NOW WE INFORMED THAT VON BERGER
DEPARTED FOR U.S. SEPT 15 TO WORK ON STATESIDE ARRANGEMENTS.

5. COMMENT: APPEARS GABBUGGIANI AND CAMARLINGHI MAY BE PLOTTING TO
CIRCUMVENT ALL VISA OBSTACLES BY REQUESTING U.S. VISA IN
CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAKE REFUSAL PSYCHOLOGICALLY AWKWARD INASMUCH AS
THE "CALCIO IN COSTUME" VISIT IS A BICENTENNIAL "GIFT" TO AMERICAN
PEOPLE FROM AZIENDE AUTONOMA DI TURISMO OF GABBUGGIANI'S CITY. AT THE
SAME TIME HIS CITY ADMINISTRATION AT ITS OWN EXPENSE HAS BEEN AND
CONTINUES TO RUN A VIRTUAL INUNDATION OF BICENTENNIAL U.S. CULTURAL
EVENTS FEATURING U.S. ARTISTS.

6. MANAGER ALITALIA NEW YORK IS CONTACT IN U.S. FOR ARRANGEMENTS
ACCORDING TO VON BERGER'S OFFICE HERE. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S ADVICE
SHOULD GABBUGGIANI AND CAMARLINGHI PRESENT VISA APPLICATIONS. WE ARE
PROCESSING THOSE APPLICATIONS IN HAND WITH DELIBERATION. WRIGHT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MAYOR, VISITS, ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976FLOREN00501
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760350-1231
From: FLORENCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760954/aaaabuii.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION VO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 FLORENCE 411
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FLORENCE MAYOR MAY AGAIN SEEK VISIT USA WITH LOCAL SOCCER TEAM
TAGS: CVIS, PINT, SCUL, IT, (GABBUGGIANI, ELIO)
To: ROME STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006